BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 89% Light rain Sensex 80,710 | Nifty 24,722 | Gold 1,01,310 | Silver 1,13,250 | Dollar 87.81 | Euro 101.34 | GBP 116.58

GREEN TAG

Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee unanimously recommends that Cantonment Railway Colony premises be declared biodiversity heritage site

PAGE 5

BIRTH OF TRAGEDY

Bengaluru and other urban districts in Karnataka are witnessing disturbing rise in stillbirth cases, surpassing state average

PAGE 6

He may have multiple criminal cases to his name, but that doesn't stop him from trying to aspire to live the influencer's life. Well, police are having none of that as they crack down on Wilson Naga's self-glorifying social media profiles

GANGSTA'S PARADISE

Police stumble upon pages dedicated to inspiring youth to lead life of crime

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These days, being a rowdy-sheeter apparently comes with a social media playbook. As per a recently registered FIR, Wilson Garden Naga, an infamous habitual offender with multiple criminal cases to his name, has been using platforms like Instagram and Facebook to cultivate a digital persona, flaunt his unlawful lifestyle, and "inspire" the youth to tread a similar path.

In a bid to clamp down on this new-age glorification of crime, the Siddapura Police have initiated action against several social media accounts found actively promoting and celebrating his so-called 'gangster image'.

On July 29, the Police Station Officer was tasked with scanning social media platforms for content that could disturb law and order or incite criminal behaviour. During routine surveillance, officers discovered a concerning trend, at least

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"This wasn't a one-off post or fan page. There are multiple accounts, systematically managed and highly active. We've issued notices and summoned those associated with these pages

—Police official

Fare or unfair?

As sticker over meter raises questions about auto drivers' intention, union members say fare hike is not matching with operational and living costs

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Many autos in the city sport stickers, but a commuter recently spotted a 'No Smoking' sticker pasted directly on an auto-rickshaw's fare meter, sparking fresh concerns over drivers hiding meters and refusing to charge official fares.

The incident comes days after the city implemented a 20% fare hike from August 1, the first in nearly four years raising the base fare to ₹36. However, driver unions have opposed the revised rates, calling them unfair and inadequate given the rising cost of living.

The Bengaluru Urban district administration announced revised auto-rickshaw fares on July 14, with the new rates coming into effect from August 1. The minimum fare for the first two kilometres has increased from ₹30 to ₹36, and passengers will now be charged ₹18 per kilometre thereafter, up from ₹15.

A night fare 1.5 times the regular rate — will apply between 10 pm and 5 am; waiting charges have also been revised with the first five minutes remaining free. Beyond that, a fee of Rs 10 will be charged for every 15 minutes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Craft chronicles

The Indian Artisans' Haat, jointly organised by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, is bringing handlooms, textiles, jewellery, and decorative items from across India, presenting diverse cultural and artisanal heritage under one roof. **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road; When: Until August 10**

02 Adventure ahead

Nexus Shantiniketan Mall is presenting 'Thrillscape', the ultimate immersive digital adventure zone, crafted with next-gen technologies blurring the line between reality and the digital realm to offer a futuristic entertainment experience. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall; When: Until August 31, 12 pm to 9 pm**

03 Divine dance

Thejanrithyam Temple for Performing Arts is presenting 'Salangai Poojai' by disciples of Natya Mayuri Guru and Smt Thejaswini Balaji. **Where: Prabhath Kaladwaraka, Koramangala; When: August 10, 10.30 am**

04 Canvas craft

Sublime Galleria is presenting 'Charcoal in Stillness and Motion', an art exhibition featuring exquisite works by artist Gautam Bansal. **Where: Sublime Galleria, UB City; When: Open from August 8**

05 Folk reimagined

Folk legend Mame Khan will be performing with his Rock N Roots Project, bringing his signature blend of Rajasthani folk, Sufi energy, and contemporary fusion. The show features iconic tracks like Kesariya Balam and Chaudhary, reimagined with a modern sound and full live band. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: August 8 and 9, 7 pm**

FASTag-based annual pass to roll out soon

New system offers non-commercial vehicles 200 toll-free crossings or one-year validity, enabling users to travel seamlessly without incurring additional toll fees, up to defined limits

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In a major move aimed at easing toll payments on National Highways, the Government of India has announced that a FASTag-based annual pass for non-commercial vehicles will come into effect from August 15, 2025. The announcement was made in response to Lok Sabha Starred Question No 177, answered on July 31, 2025.

FASTag-based annual pass system will operate uniformly across all NH toll plazas, maintaining all existing Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) functionalities for pass holders

Validity and coverage

As per the Gazette Notification (GSR 388(E) dated June 17, 2025), the annual pass will be available to owners of non-commercial cars, jeeps, and vans equipped with valid and functional FASTags. Priced at Rs 3,000, the pass will be valid for one year or for 200 crossings through any fee plaza on National Highways (NH) or National Expressways, whichever is earlier. It will not currently apply to State Highways or Expressways, though states can opt in with central technical support.

Activation and usage

The annual pass will be activated through the existing FASTag system. Once active, it enables users to travel seamlessly without incurring additional toll fees, up to the defined limits. The system will operate uniformly across all NH toll plazas, maintaining all existing Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) functionalities for pass holders.

Annual pass is not applicable to commercial vehicles, though other fee discounts and monthly passes remain available to them under current rules

Grievance redressal

Users can raise toll-related issues via the e-notice portal developed by NIC, the National Highways helpline 1033, a dedicated email (falsededuction@ihmcl.com), the FASTag issuer banks' helplines, or through the Rajmarg Yatra App.

Commercial vehicles and FASTag lanes

The annual pass is not applicable to commercial vehicles, though other fee discounts and monthly passes remain available to them under current rules. The government reaffirmed that all lanes at NH toll plazas have been declared FASTag lanes since February 16, 2021, ensuring seamless electronic toll collection nationwide.

Daily safety checks in schools made mandatory

In a move to strengthen child safety in schools across Karnataka, the Department of Public Instruction has issued a fresh circular directing all school headmasters to conduct daily checks on key safety parameters and ensure immediate corrective action wherever necessary.

The directive, issued by Dr KV Thilok, Commissioner of the Department of School Education, highlights the importance of adhering to the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, RTE Rules 2012, and the Karnataka State Child Protection Policy 2016. Despite previous instructions on implementing safety measures, the department noted repeated lapses in several schools, some of which have been reported by the media during official inspections.

To prevent such incidents, a checklist of essential safety aspects has been annexed to the circular. Headmasters are required to review these points daily, mark compliance, and ensure systems are functioning. If any discrepancies are found, they must be resolved immediately. The circular also warns that any negligence will result in the headmaster being held accountable.

All district-level nodal officers, Deputy Directors (Admin/Development), Block Education Officers (BEOs), ECOs, BRCs, BRPs, and CRPs have been instructed to monitor compliance. They must also confirm whether the circular is being followed rigorously in schools under their jurisdiction and submit district-wise consolidated reports to the central office. Additionally, the daily compliance data must be updated on the SATS portal. Officials visiting schools are also mandated to verify that the prescribed checklist is being properly maintained. **— BMB**

CET first round: 1.09 lakh seats allotted

In the first round of Karnataka's Common Entrance Test (CET) seat allotment, over 1.09 lakh out of 1.35 lakh available seats have been allotted, marking nearly 80 per cent seat allocation. Engineering, medical, nursing, and agriculture courses saw the highest demand. Notably, all available seats in agriculture courses were filled, while over 71,800 out of 77,140 engineering seats and more than 15,000 out of 31,726 nursing seats were taken.

According to Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), the allotments were made based on students' preferences. Students must confirm admissions by August 12. KEA officials noted that some students may relinquish their allotted seats in anticipation of better options in the second round, which is likely to begin in the third week of August. KEA Executive Director H Prasanna stated that 35 to 40 per cent of students may opt for reshuffling in the next round. **— BMB**

Bengaluru braces for wet spell as monsoon gains momentum

Bengaluru is set to experience a rainy week ahead, with moderate rain and sustained winds (30–40 kmph) forecast for the next few days. The city will remain under generally cloudy skies, with temperatures expected to hover around 29°C during the day and 20°C at night. The broader South Interior Karnataka region, including Bengaluru Urban and Rural, is likely to witness moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied by gusty winds, particularly between August 5 and 8. This weather activity is attributed to multiple cyclonic circulations — including one over the Bay of Bengal, off the North Tamil Nadu coast, and another over Rayalaseema.

The Meteorological Centre has also issued alerts for heavy rain and thunderstorms across districts in Coastal and North Interior Karnataka, while hilly regions like Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Shivamogga are expected to receive heavy downpours. As the monsoon trough remains active and well-defined across the subcontinent, Bengaluru residents are advised to be prepared for intermittent showers and gusty winds through the week. **— BMB**

Ground floor parking now mandatory in BBMP, BDA limits

The Karnataka government has enforced new rules mandating that the ground floor of all buildings under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) jurisdiction be reserved exclusively for vehicle parking. As per the amended Section 13-E of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act (1961), incorporated in the Revised Master Plan 2015 under the new 'Bengaluru Local Planning Authority (Amendment) Regulations-2025', the ground floor—termed as "stilt parking floor" with a fixed height of 3 metres—must be used solely for parking and will not be counted in the total building height, which must not exceed 15 metres. Buildings that reserve the ground floor for parking will be allowed concessions in setbacks and permitted to add a fourth floor. Those already with three floors can construct a fourth if the ground floor is completely allocated for parking. Any misuse of designated parking space for other purposes will result in the disconnection of power and water supply, and commercial buildings could face licence cancellations. **— BMB**

Health institute staffer siphons off ₹1.37 cr from public welfare funds

Accused gradually gained access to banking systems, transferring huge sum to private accounts undetected due to audit violations

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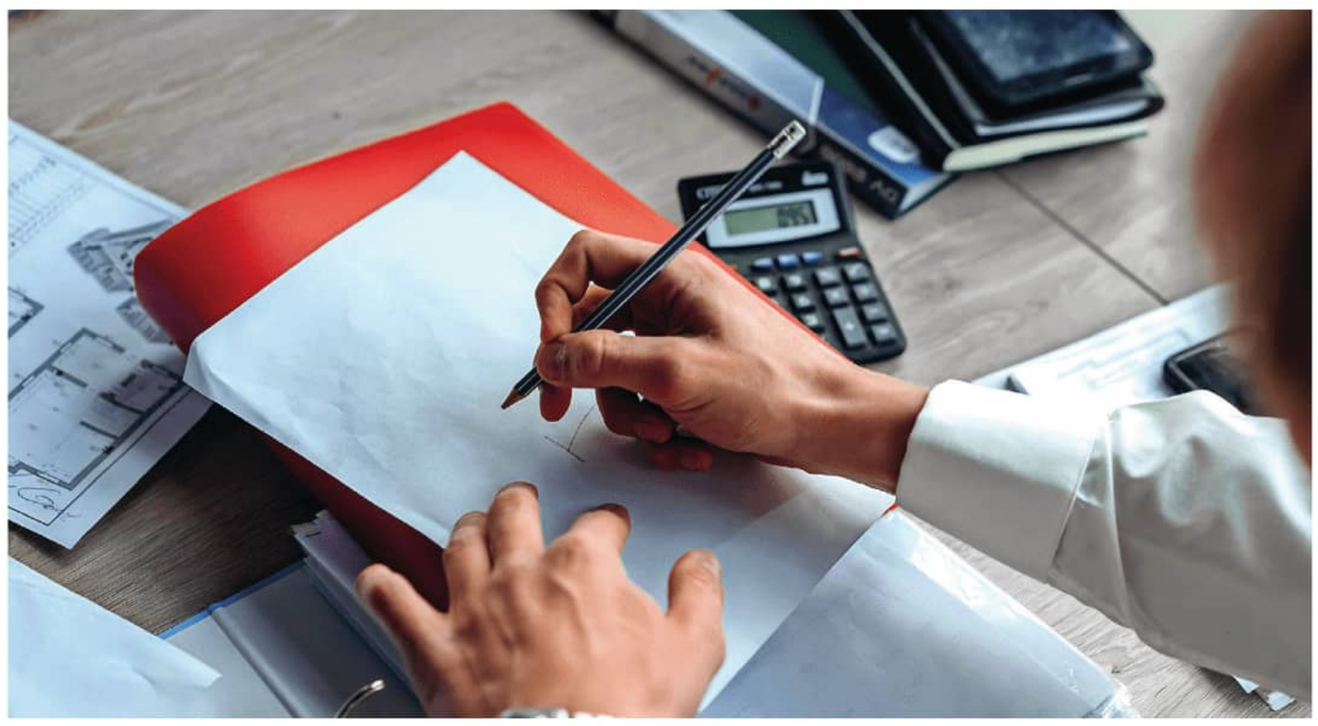

A data entry operator at a reputed government health institute quietly siphoned off over ₹1.37 crore from public welfare funds across four years, allegedly using a portion to purchase a house—all while the management remained unaware. Shockingly, no audits were conducted during this entire period, raising serious concerns about institutional oversight and negligence.

The accused, Manish Kumar (30), was arrested by Siddapura Police on Saturday, the same day an FIR was filed by the institute's current administrative head. Digital records and other crucial evidence have been secured. Police are now not only investigating the financial misappropriation but are also probing possible lapses by the administrative staff who failed to detect the misuse of public funds earlier.

Trusted role misused

Hired on contract in 2021, the accused, initially appointed as a data entry operator, gradually took on additional financial responsibilities. His role expanded from routine data tasks to managing cash collections, welfare fund records, and handling digital transactions through the institute's official net banking platform, giving him full access to funds.

According to the FIR, the fraud came to light during an internal audit for the financial year 2024–25, when the newly appointed administration discovered irregularities in fund transfers. A deeper review revealed that large sums sanctioned under SC and ST welfare schemes were diverted into private bank accounts.

During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to transferring funds into a third-party account and admitted to using over ₹14.79 lakh to settle pending statutory dues without official approval. He is also suspected of misappropriating daily OPD collections, delaying deposits, and using the institution's official mobile phone and banking credentials for unauthorised transactions.

Police officials said that a portion of the misappropriated money was allegedly used to purchase a house. More concerning, they noted, was the institutional negligence, no statutory financial audits were conducted for four consecutive years, a violation of mandatory government procedures. This lapse is now under investigation.

Audit failures under scrutiny

The case has revealed alarming gaps in the institute's internal controls. Despite mandatory annual audit requirements for government-run institutions, records confirm that no audits were conducted during the entire period when the fraud took place.

Police are now examining the role of former administrators and finance staff for possible negligence or complicity. Investigators are also probing why critical financial statements and reconciliation reports were never submitted to the concerned departments, raising red flags about prolonged oversight failure.

A case has been registered under Sections 316(4) and 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, pertaining to criminal breach of trust and misappropriation by a public servant.

The accused was arrested the same day the FIR was filed. Investigating officers have seized digital records, bank statements, and transaction logs.

Authorities are now tracking the flow of funds to identify end beneficiaries and are taking steps to recover the misappropriated amount through proper legal procedures.

Man loses ₹1.49 lakh to escort service con

A 24-year-old software engineer was duped of ₹1.49 lakh by a person posing as an escort service provider online. High Grounds police have booked a case of cheating by impersonation and are tracking the money trail to trace the accused, who identified herself as Ishani Reddy.

According to the complainant, he came across the woman on social media offering escort and massage services and was asked to pay ₹299 as a registration fee.

Once the payment was made, the accused continued to extort more money under various pretexts, forcing the techie to transfer a total of ₹1.49 lakh.

When she demanded more, the complainant grew suspicious and sought a refund, after which the accused cut off contact.

Police suspect the accused used a fake identity and have warned the public against falling prey to such online scams.

Woman dies by suicide

A 20-year-old woman died after a fall from the top of a gym building in Machohalli on Monday.

The deceased, identified as Rakshitha, was working as a receptionist at Juniper Fitness Gym. Police suspect suicide and have registered a case at the Madanayakanahalli police station. Further investigation is underway to determine the exact cause and circumstances leading to the incident.

(If you or someone you know needs help, please reach out at Arogya Sahaya Vani: 104)

Man murdered over pan masala pouch

A petty argument over a ₹20 pouch of pan masala turned fatal when a man was brutally murdered by his colleague in Varthur. The accused, Sitaram, has been arrested by Varthur police for killing Jitendra, alias Bablu.

According to the police, the two men, both tile workers from Bihar, were consuming oil (liquor) on the night of July 28 at a private school construction site in Ramagondanahalli. During the drinking session, Bablu asked Sitaram to get him a ₹20 tobacco product.

This request enraged Sitaram who felt insulted at being asked to run an errand. In a fit of anger, Sitaram waited until Bablu was heavily intoxicated and asleep. He then hit him to death with a hammer and fled the scene.

The murder came to light on July 29 when the rest of the workers came and a case was registered at Varthur police station.

Bike taxi ban case: 'Without aggregators, how can commuters access motorbikes?'

The Karnataka High Court on Monday continued hearing appeals filed by bike taxi aggregators Ola, Uber and Rapido, along with others, challenging a single judge's April 2025 decision. The ruling stated that bike taxi services could not operate in the state unless the state government notified specific guidelines and rules under the Motor Vehicles Act.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi addressed the matter, specifically questioning the state govt on whether it had intentionally decided to disallow bike taxis.

The state's counsel argued that the Motor Vehicles Act does not permit bikes to be used as taxis. However, the Court dismissed this argument as 'thin', noting that several states allow bike taxis under the same statute applicable across India.

During the hearing, Senior Advocate Uday Holla, representing Roppen Transportation Services (Rapido), contended that the single judge assumed, though not pleaded, that the state govt had a policy against bike taxis. He argued that if such a policy exists, it contravenes the statute, which permits motorbikes as taxis.

Holla further highlighted that various states, including Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana and Orissa, permit bike taxis.

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Addressing the convenience of bike taxis, Holla stated, "Today, Bangalore Metro has just two lines (in Bangalore)...Bike taxis help commuters and are a matter of easy convenience. The single judge has also said that the State government must be alive to the changes coming in society. Now, how will commuters access motorbikes?

Without aggregators, motorbikes will just be running all around. But if there is an aggregator, bikes can be made accessible. You see how convenient bike taxis are, you get one in a minute or two."

He also mentioned that earlier whiteboards were issued to bike taxis and suggested that establishing guidelines would create a regulatory framework.

Emphasising the role of aggregators in ensuring commuter safety, Holla added, "If aggregators are not there, who will check the background of the drivers? Aggregators add to the entire mechanism... They check the antecedents of the drivers."

He also claimed that bike taxis reduce traffic congestion, citing media reports indicating increased traffic following the disallowance of bike taxis in the state. **BMB**

Hazardous city air persists despite multi-crore initiative

NCAP promised cleaner air by 2026, but for Bengaluru, delays, poor planning, and weak leadership have turned it into another smoggy dream

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Despite spending over ₹500 crore under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP-2019), Bengaluru's air quality remains hazardous, with PM10 levels still above national standards. The programme aimed to reduce particulate matter and improve public health, but has shown little impact in the city. Of the ₹541.1 crore allocated, 59% has already been spent. The target was to bring PM10 levels down to the national safe limit of 60 µg/m³ by 2025–26, but Bengaluru still records 72 µg/m³—only a marginal improvement from 92 µg/m³ in 2018.

Other cities show modest gains

The programme also includes Davanagere, Dharwad-Hubballi, and Kalaburagi, where PM10 levels have slightly declined in proportion to funds used. Davanagere and Kalaburagi now report safer levels at 57 µg/m³, while Dharwad-Hubballi records 62 µg/m³. However, Bengaluru's marginal 1–2% improvement over six years exposes a glaring gap between the massive spending and measurable air quality outcomes.

Bengaluru's highest NCAP spend: ₹151.34 crore in 2024–25

Governance gaps undermining progress

Officials cite administrative delays, absence of elected leadership in the BBMP, and poor inter-departmental coordination as major reasons for the lag. Approval for Bengaluru's action plan came only in 2023—four years after the NCAP was launched—and tendering delays further stalled implementation. "Urban development bodies are responsible for execution; we only oversee and report," said an official from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), shifting responsibility to local civic authorities for the lack of timely progress.

Bangalore Mirror
No change in the air, city continues to breathe uneasy

Bangalore Mirror story about Bengaluru's ongoing air pollution crisis on August 3

What is PM10 and why it matters

PM10 refers to particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometres—tiny dust particles that easily enter the lungs and harm respiratory health. Emitted from construction, traffic, waste burning, and industrial activity, these particles are a major contributor to urban air pollution.

What is NCAP-2019?

Launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, NCAP aims to reduce PM10 levels by 40% or achieve the 60 µg/m³ national benchmark by 2026 in 130 cities. It requires coordinated action by seven departments—including housing, urban development, transport, and industries—under local municipal leadership. In Karnataka, the KSPCB is tasked with monitoring air quality and reporting data to the Central Pollution Control Board.

One year, ₹151 crore – still no relief

In 2024–25 alone, ₹151.34 crore was spent in Bengaluru—the highest single-year expenditure under NCAP. Yet, the city remains far from its target, showing how mismanagement and poor planning have choked the potential of an otherwise ambitious programme.

Expert voices urge structural change

"Construction, vehicle growth, and deforestation are the root causes," said an environmentalist. "Greater Bengaluru must prioritise massive green lungs in all zones—each new municipal body should develop Lalbagh- or Cubbon Park-like bio-diversity parks. Without that, the PM10 levels will never drop." Ramesh Kumar, an activist said, "Despite crores in funding and multiple action plans, clean air remains elusive for Bengaluru. Unless the city addresses root causes and strengthens administrative will, the air will only get heavier—for lungs and budgets alike."

1st Year Fond Rememberance

05/01/1958 - 05/08/2024

In Loving Memory

Y CHRISTOPHER MANOHAR

Husband and an awesome Father

"Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us everyday.
Unseen, unheard,
but always near;
still loved, still missed,
and very dear."

-Wife and

Sons Richard & Clifford

K-RIDE chief replaced amid project standstill

The Karnataka government has appointed IAS officer Govinda Reddy as the new Managing Director of the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE), amid uncertainty over the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP). According to an official order issued on Monday, Reddy, a 2013-batch IAS officer currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Infrastructure Development, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department, will concurrently hold the position of K-RIDE MD. He replaces senior bureaucrat Manjula N.

The post of MD, K-RIDE, has been designated as equivalent in rank and responsibilities to the cadre post of Director of Municipal Administration, as per the order. Reddy's appointment comes at a critical juncture for the BSRP, which has hit a roadblock after contractor Larsen & Toubro terminated contracts for Corridor-2 (Chikkabanavara to Benniganahalli) and Corridor-4 (Heelalige to Rajankunte), citing persistent "delays in land acquisition."

Compounding the situation, Lokayukta officials raided IAS officer Vasanthi Amar B V on July 23 who was overseeing land acquisition as Special Deputy Commissioner.

Sources in K-RIDE say work has "come to a standstill," and the contractor may halt operations unless issues are resolved. **— PTI**

Bus strike deferred; B'luru largely unaffected

A statewide bus strike called by transport unions on Tuesday has been postponed following a stay by the Karnataka High Court. HV Anantha Subba Rao, President of the KSRTC Staff and Workers Federation, said the decision was made to respect the legal process, and urged the state government to fulfil its promises to employees. He also appealed to workers to resume duties.

Despite the protest call by unions from BMTC, KSRTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC, Bengaluru's public transport remained mostly unaffected, with over 99% of BMTC buses operating as usual. Of the 4,188 scheduled buses, 4,150 were on the roads, ensuring a smooth commute across the city. The strike was aimed at pressing demands such as payment of 38 months' pending dues, implementation of revised wages from January 1, 2024, and opposition to privatisation and alleged staff harassment. Workers also sought fair allocation of electric buses to in-house drivers.

While Bengaluru stayed steady, the strike disrupted services in rural and border areas like Belagavi, where inter-district and interstate routes—especially to Goa and Maharashtra—saw major delays, leaving many passengers stranded at bus stations. **— ANI**

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage menace

RR Nagar

A Despite a ₹1,000 fine and CCTV surveillance, garbage continues to pile up at the entrance of the BDA link road in RR Nagar. This persistent dumping creates health hazards and unhygienic conditions for nearby residents. Stronger enforcement and tighter monitoring are urgently required to curb this public nuisance.

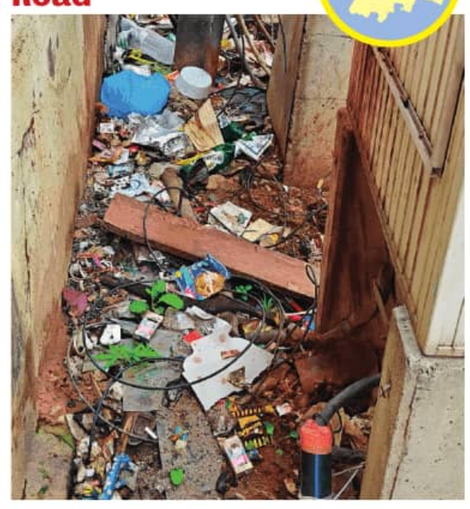
Drain danger

Lalbagh

In Lalbagh, near a temple, stagnant water from a public tap is giving off a foul stench and serving as a mosquito breeding ground. The unhygienic conditions raise serious concerns and demand immediate action to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases.

Dumping spot

Sri Rama Mandira Road



Behind the BESCOM electric box on 6th Cross, Sri Rama Mandira Road, residents report continued garbage dumping. They urge BBMP to clean and cement the spot to stop further misuse and maintain hygiene.

‘Cantonment Colony must get biodiversity heritage site tag’

BMC members suggest declaration of area as heritage site, say green patch must be preserved as it is home to wide range of biodiversity

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In a meeting held with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on August 4, Bengaluru’s Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) has unanimously recommended that the Cantonment Railway Colony premises be declared a biodiversity heritage site.

According to sources from the BBMP, the meeting was held in response to a request from the committee regarding the matter.

“A meeting of BMC members with BBMP DCF was conducted to gather the committee’s opinion on the matter. All five members of BMC have unanimously recommended that the area be declared a biodiversity heritage site,” said a source, adding that a meeting with full quorum will be called soon, and the recommendation will be communicated to the Karnataka Biodiversity Board (KBB) through proper channels.

Over a month ago, Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khadre also instructed KBB officials to initiate the process of assessing the site as a biodiversity heritage site and refuse the permission to cut 368 trees, as requested by the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), until the process is completed.

BMC members say if this green patch is not preserved, the idea of a green and clean Bengaluru will go for a toss.

“The area has significant vehicular traffic and environmental sensitivity due to limited green cover. This green patch must be protected. RLDA should drop this project and look for an alternative,” said Vijay Nishant, a BMC member.

Following a notice by BBMP regarding the removal of the 368 trees for a commercial development project and a public outcry on the proposal, BMC members conducted an on-site inspection in April. BMC then filed a report with the BBMP, stating that RLDA should justify its proposal to cut 84 out of the proposed 368 trees at the Bangalore Cantonment Railway Colony campus.

The 84 trees in question were categorised as ‘heritage’ trees by BMC based on the frameworks of the National Biodiversity Authority, the Wildlife Protection Act, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. These 84 trees include 2 banyan trees, 5 peepal trees, 4 fig trees, 1 sampige tree, 7 honge trees, 11 jackfruit trees, 2 jamun trees, 1 kadamba tree, 5 almond trees, 39 mango trees, 2 neem trees, 1 amla tree, 1 sandalwood tree, 2 tamarind trees, and 1 teak tree.

“Apart from heritage trees, the spot in question is home to a plethora of biodiversity, including many species of birds and butterflies,” said Akshay Heblikar, another member of Bengaluru’s BMC. He noted that if these trees are removed, their habitat will be disturbed and Bengaluru will lose this biodiversity forever. “The building that RLDA desired to construct can be done anywhere, too. But once lost, this biodiversity can never be regained. It should be an urban biodiversity hotspot,” added Heblikar.

> “The building that RLDA desired to construct can be done anywhere, too. But once lost, this biodiversity can never be regained. It should be an urban biodiversity hotspot
>
> –Akshay Heblikar, Bengaluru BMC member

Attenders sleep outside despite facility

Though a dormitory facility has been provided within the Victoria Hospital complex in Bengaluru, many attendants accompanying patients are reluctant to use it due to the Rs 70 per day charge. As a result, several are seen sleeping on the hospital premises at night, using mats or blankets on the ground. The complex houses several major hospitals including Vanivilas, IGOT, Minto, and Nephro-Urology, drawing patients from across the state for its free and quality treatment. However, there is only one Vikrantha Dhama dormitory with 230 beds—of which only around 60 per cent are occupied on most days. Despite the availability, many choose to sleep outside due to affordability issues or personal preferences.

The management clarified that a nominal service fee is essential for maintenance. —BMB

Crackdown on waste flow into lakes

To safeguard Bengaluru’s lakes from sewage and waste contamination, Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials to take swift, coordinated action. At a review meeting focused on lake development and sewage control, he stressed the urgent need to identify lakes receiving sewage inflow, construct diversion lines, and repair damaged walking paths. Rao also ordered legal action against individuals discharging sewage into stormwater drains and instructed the BWSSB to fix sewage overflow from nearby manholes. A 15-day deadline has been set for surveying lakes lacking outlet drains. Senior officials from the BBMP, BWSSB, and Pollution Control Board attended the meeting. —BMB

The dog was hit by a car on 2nd Cross of BDA Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, Jeevan Bhima Nagar, on Sunday

Stray’s death prompts accident investigation

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Jeevan Bhima Nagar Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) after a car ran over a stray dog at 2nd Cross of BDA Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, on Sunday. The police, based on a complaint lodged by Abhijith Das, registered the FIR on Monday under the Section 11(1) of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and Section 325 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

According to the FIR, a car (KA03 NS 3330) ran over a stray dog that was sleeping on the road in front of a bakery on 2nd Cross of BDA Layout, HAL 3rd Stage, Jeevan Bhima Nagar, at 3.11 pm on Sunday. The complainant requested the police to nab the car driver responsible for the death of the stray dog and take suitable action as per the law.

However, the police registered the FIR on August 4, a day after the unfortunate incident. Selin C, a citizen who feeds stray dogs, said that she struggled to reach the BBMP Animal Husbandry Department officials to make arrangements for taking the carcass to the authorised veterinary hospital for postmortem. “I have been approaching the authorities to make arrangements to take the carcass for postmortem. With no help or guidance from the authorities concerned, I took the help of a resident to bury the carcass at the nearby burial ground,” said Selin, adding that the police exhumed the carcass on Tuesday and took it on a BBMP vehicle arranged by the Assistant Director of Animal Husbandry Department for the postmortem.

Dog feeder says she had tough time making arrangements for postmortem to be done, claims BBMP officials were unhelpful

She stated that the postmortem was conducted at the Madiwala Veterinary Hospital, following which, the carcass was transported to the burial ground for interment.

She said that some residents have been obstructing her efforts to feed stray dogs. “They are threatening me with dire consequences if I continue feeding stray dogs. I want the police to advise or warn such people not to create problems for me,” she said.

Ganesh Hegde, an animal activist, opined that the police should take stringent action against the driver responsible for the death of the stray dog. “I want the police to punish those beating and killing stray dogs,” he said.

Stillbirths surge in Karnataka cities, B'luru among worst-hit areas

Urban lifestyle, delayed pregnancies, and maternal health issues drive sharp rise in stillbirths, alarming health experts and triggering government action

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Maternal stress, sedentary jobs, and delayed prenatal care blamed for rising stillbirth cases in Bengaluru and other urban districts

Bengaluru and other urban districts in Karnataka are witnessing a disturbing rise in stillbirth cases, surpassing the state average and raising serious concerns among health officials. Recent government data for 2024 reveals that 12 districts, including Mysuru, Dharwad, Ballari, and Chamarajanagar, have reported stillbirth rates significantly above the state average of 3.41 per 1,000 live births. Haveri tops the list with an alarming rate of 9.30 stillbirths per 1,000 births.

What's particularly worrying is the urban skew in these numbers. Of the 3,244 stillbirths recorded in the state this year, a staggering 3,145 occurred in urban areas—translating to 7.18 per 1,000 births. In sharp contrast, rural Karnataka reported only 99 stillbirths, or 0.19 per 1,000 births. This marks a drastic shift from 2015, when rural areas carried a higher burden than cities.

Health experts attribute the surge in urban stillbirths to a mix of lifestyle-related and medical factors. These include delayed pregnancies, diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders, obesity, twin pregnancies, and previous stillbirths. Other causes cited are premature deliveries, poor nutrition, smoking, alcohol or drug use, infections, and even physical trauma during pregnancy. "Even something like a high fever or a minor accident can affect fetal survival. Urban mothers are particularly vulnerable due to stress and lifestyle changes," said Dr Uma Sultanpuri, a senior obstetrician. "This is no longer a rural issue—it's a city crisis."

> **"This increasing trend, especially in metro areas, is a wake-up call, with infections, fevers, and accidents contributing to stillbirths** – Dr Uma Sultanpuri

Bengaluru Urban, once considered relatively safe, is now among the high-burden districts. Officials believe the trend may be linked to working women postponing childbirth, increased stress levels, lack of physical activity, and poor access to prenatal care in fast-growing city areas.

Reacting to the spike, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has ordered detailed reports from districts like Haveri, Gadag, and Dharwad. "We are treating this matter with urgency. Awareness campaigns will be launched to guide pregnant women on safe practices," he said.

Amid the rising concern, a few districts offer hope. Hassan, Yadgir, and Kodagu have maintained low or zero stillbirth numbers, with Yadgir reporting no cases in 2023—a feat that health officials say is due to consistent antenatal care and outreach.

Doctors urge expectant mothers to eat a balanced diet, maintain a healthy weight, monitor fetal movements, and seek immediate medical attention in case of pain, bleeding, or reduced fetal activity. Sleeping on the side, rather than on the back, is also recommended to improve outcomes.

IN BRIEF

KHB launches dream home drive

The Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) will launch two premium housing projects— 'Surya Shine' and 'Surya Divine'—at Surya Nagar Phase 1, along Chandapura–Anekal Road. Construction is set to begin by the end of August, with completion expected in 18 months. Surya Shine will comprise 50 modern 3BHK flats, while Surya Divine will offer 40 well-designed 2BHK flats. A demand survey earlier this year drew over 800 applications for the 90 available units, reflecting strong public interest in these developments. — BMB

Centre plans EV lifespan boost

In a push to boost electric vehicle (EV) adoption, the Centre is likely to amend rules allowing EVs—cars, buses, tempos, and trucks—to operate beyond the current 15-year registration cap. Presently, all vehicles must undergo re-registration after 15 years, discouraging many from investing in costly EVs, especially with older petrol and diesel vehicles facing city restrictions. With India targeting 30% EV penetration by 2030 but achieving only 7.6% in 2024—mainly via two-wheelers—the pressure to scale up adoption is mounting. While e-bus numbers are growing, most are owned by state transport agencies, leaving old diesel buses still dominant in private fleets. NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has proposed removing the 15-year limit for EVs to spur demand, a recommendation the Centre is now actively considering to accelerate the green transition — BMB

India's first tiger export begins

Karnataka is set to play a vital role in a major international wildlife initiative, with India approving the translocation of six tigers to Cambodia to revive its extinct population. Tigers from Karnataka's thriving reserves are expected to be among those selected, highlighting the state's conservation success. This marks the first time India will export its native tigers. The translocation, expected by year-end, follows a formal agreement between India and Cambodia, placing Karnataka at the forefront of global wildlife conservation efforts. — BMB

BJP slams tree demolition

The Karnataka BJP on Tuesday lodged a police complaint alleging illegal demolition and tree felling at Freedom Park ahead of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's planned protest on August 8. The BJP claimed that an old compound wall was razed and a concrete road was built without permission to facilitate the protest against alleged irregularities in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The event, led by Gandhi, targets the Election Commission over "votes theft" claims. The complaint, filed at Upparpet police station, seeks legal action against the organisers and officials involved and urges authorities to ensure accountability and justice for the public.— BMB

Kaggalipura Lake cries for help as authorities delay action

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Residents of Kaggalipura and social activists have been demanding the authorities concerned to rejuvenate Kaggalipura Lake. They complain that the lake has been in a pathetic condition for many years but the authorities did nothing to develop the lake. Despite years of appeals, the once-thriving Kaggalipura Lake continues to suffer from neglect, say residents and activists. Several individuals, including Sandalwood actor Aniruddha Jatkar, have been actively campaigning for its rejuvenation but claim that their repeated efforts have yielded no tangible results.

Jatkar wrote to Minor Irrigation Minister NS Boseraju on July 23, 2025, urging the government to take immediate steps to restore the lake. "I have visited the lake recently and found it polluted. According to local residents, the lake plays a key role in recharging groundwater levels in and around Kaggalipura. I urge the authorities to clear encroachments and initiate rejuvenation work," he said in the letter. Government documents accessed by Bangalore Mirror reveal that Yeshwanthpura MLA ST Somashekar had earlier written to the Minor Irrigation Department on July 11, 2024, requesting action on the lake's restoration. In response, the Chief Engineer (South) of the department had submitted a proposal on January 1, 2025, estimating a cost of around ₹3 crore for rejuvenation and development.

However, bureaucratic hurdles continue to delay the process. In response to Jatkar's letter, Nagendra Prasad K, Director of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, wrote to the Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru Urban Zilla Panchayat stating that funds earmarked for sanitation and drinking water could not be used for lake rejuvenation. "You are advised to utilise funds allocated to village, taluk, and zilla panchayats for the rejuvenation of Kaggalipura Lake," his letter stated.

> **"I found the lake is polluted. The lake plays a key role in improving groundwater; I want authorities to clear encroachment of the land** – Aniruddha Jatkar, actor

Local residents have also expressed frustration. T Nagaraju, a long-time resident, said he has made multiple requests to officials over the years but nothing has moved forward. "The lake is filled with silt and desperately needs cleaning. The authorities must fence the area after completing a proper survey," he said.

Letters exchanged between MLAs and departments highlight urgent appeals for Kaggalipura Lake rejuvenation amid funding confusion

Jatkar, who had made a video appeal in January 2025, said he was thankful to officials, including Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, for showing intent to rejuvenate the lake. "I truly hope their plan turns into action soon," he added.

Meanwhile, Minor Irrigation Department Secretary BK Pavithra said she was yet to examine the letter submitted by the Chief Engineer (South). "I will look into the matter and take the necessary steps," she said, offering a glimmer of hope for the neglected water body.

HIGH COURT

Compassionate appointment guidelines issued

The High Court has mandated that applications for compassionate appointments must be adjudicated within a maximum of 90 days from the date of receipt. The directive aims to ensure timely and fair processing of these applications, which provide immediate financial relief to bereaved families.

A division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Nawaz and Justice K S Hemalekha stated, "Compassionate appointment matters being a welfare measure designed to provide immediate financial relief to bereaved families, the State bears a high duty of procedural fairness."

In the present case, a widow applied for a compassionate appointment for one of her four sons. But, the State's delay in processing the application led to the denial of relief. Subsequently, the State Administrative Tribunal granted the relief, prompting the State to approach the High Court on the grounds that the claim was time-barred. "When a timely application is made, especially by an illiterate or a widow, the authorities must act strictly, transparently and assistively," the Court observed. **BMB**

Finance Ministry to look into profile funding scam

The High Court on Tuesday directed the Union Ministry of Finance to examine petitions filed by individuals alleging they were victims of 'Profile Funding' scams and to consider implementing regulations.

Profile funding is an alleged scheme in which scammers promise to fund victims' bank accounts based on their profiles in exchange for personal and financial information. Victims are reportedly told that their profiles will be used to apply for loans.

Justice BM Shyam Prasad, while dictating his order, stated, "This court must also state that petitions of this nature are too frequent to be ignored and the Secretary of Ministry of Finance, Union of India must take note of the same, to see whether regulations must be put in place."

The court instructed Deputy Solicitor General Shanthi Bhushan H to forward a copy of the order to the Ministry for its consideration.

The proceedings involved a plea by Vijayeendra G Muddebihalkar and others, who sought an order restraining banks and financial institutions (respondent nos. 8 to 12) from taking coercive measures to recover amounts from specific loan accounts.

Additionally, the petitioners requested that the banks discharge them from the loans, issue no-objection certificates for the mentioned loan accounts, and reframe their CIBIL scores following the discharge.

The petitioners argued that they were coerced into entering tri-parte agreements with assurances of receiving completed apartments from the project. Their counsel claimed that bank officials informed them they were victims of 'profile funding'.. **BMB**

Tourist cottages touch-up in tiger reserve ruffles feathers

Activists write to CM, forest minister, say renovation in Bandipur Tiger Reserve in violation of guidelines

INFOCUS TIGER HABITAT

Wildlife activists and conservationists have raised concerns over the renovation of tourist cottages in the core area of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, stating that it violates guidelines by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

A written complaint on the issue has also been sent to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre.

"Considering that safari operations in Bandipur had been moved to Melkamanahally, we don't understand why there is a concerted move to restart tourism in the BTR core habitat. In doing so, the very essence of the NTCA compendium of guidelines, advisories, and orders has been defeated," said Joseph Hoover, a wildlife conservationist, in his complaint.

Notably, in October 2019, NTCA, through a circular had reiterated that permanent tourist facilities located inside core or critical tiger habitat, which are being used for wildlife tourism, should be phased out within a time frame decided by the local advisory committee.

Following the circular, the then Field Director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR) moved tourism/safari operations from the core to Melkamanahally, on the periphery of the Reserve. Last year, the Field Director's office was also relocated from the core area of BTR to Melkamanahally.

Experts point out that more than Rs 50 lakh has been spent on renovating tourist bungalows in Bandipur, at a time when vulnerable and overexploited forest watchers are living in poor, dilapidated anti-poaching camps that leak during rain.

"The money could have been used to build better living quarters for the foot soldiers. It could have also been used for the maintenance of elephant-proof trenches and solar tentacle fences in the Kundhakere range. Elephants have been frequenting farmlands, irking local communities who are victims of animal conflicts due to skewed administration," says the complaint letter.

Experts say it is baffling that NTCA is oblivious to these developments in BTR.

"WLPA section 38 mandates that core tiger habitats have to be kept inviolate for tiger conservation. If cattle grazing is being prohibited, laws regulating tourism in the core area should also be implemented. This is an utter failure on the part of NTCA. The agency has been a mute spectator in the face of illegal activities by the state forest department," said Pramod, an RTI activist.

According to BTR administration, the renovation work in the core area of the tiger reserve is being carried out as part of the Reserve's annual Plan of Operation and following due process.

"The renovation was needed as the structures were not in good condition. These cottages are not used just for tourism purposes, but also for other in-house purposes such as conducting workshops and training sessions. However, we are aware of NTCA's guidelines and are in the process of identifying land outside the core area of the reserve for this purpose. The ongoing work is as per due procedure and was part of the annual action plan," said S Prabhakaran, Conservator of Forest, Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

—Garima Prasher

CLOSERHOME

BMTC crew restore bag left on bus to owner

An engineer, who accidentally left his backpack on a late-night BMTC Vayu Vajra airport bus, was reunited with it, thanks to the quick and honest efforts of the bus driver, conductor, and BMTC's airport control room. Sharing his experience on social media platform X, the grateful passenger praised the staff's swift response and dedication in retrieving his belongings.

"Two nights ago, I landed at Kempegowda International Airport and boarded the Vayu Vajra bus. I dozed off during the ride and, upon getting off, picked up only my suitcase, leaving my backpack behind," he wrote. "A minute after the bus departed, I realised my bag was missing. I quickly searched for BMTC's airport helpline number online and explained the situation to the staff over the phone." The passenger also praised the control room staff for listening patiently and connecting him to the right personnel. After a few calls, he was assured the backpack had been found. He chose to wait at the stop. "At 9.30 am sharp, conductor Paramesh Beeregowda handed over the bag personally," Noman wrote . **BMB**

Dharmasthala: SIT to probe new claim

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) which is probing the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala was on Tuesday handed over another case related to the mortal remains of a girl, police sources said.

The complainant alleged that the police failed to register a case and that the mortal remains of a girl were buried in Dharmasthala village without following due legal procedure.

Following the submission of the report, it has now come under the jurisdiction of the SIT, which will handle all further enquiries, sources said.

The SIT has already begun its investigation into the case, including examining locations mentioned by both complainants.

The second complainant, Jayant T, had earlier stated that he witnessed the illegal burial of a girl. Initially, he visited the SIT office in Belthangady to share the information. He was then directed to lodge a formal complaint at the Dharmasthala Police Station. The complaint was officially registered under crime number 200/DPS/2025.

The first complainant, a former sanitation worker whose identity has not been disclosed, claimed that he was employed in Dharmasthala between 1995 and 2014 when he was allegedly forced to bury several bodies. **PTI**

Woman reunited with family, thanks to Google Search and NGO efforts

A mentally ill woman, hailing from Karnataka and missing for the last one-and-a-half years, has been reunited with her family with the help of Google Search and efforts by a social organisation in Maharashtra, its representatives said on Tuesday.

The woman, a post-graduate hailing from Karwar in Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district, was found in a pitiable state at a locality under Verna police station limits in neighbouring South Goa district on February 5, 2024.

She was subsequently brought to the Savita Ashram, run by the Jeevan Anand Sanstha, at Pandur village in Kudal taluka of Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra, the organisation said in a release.

At the ashram, she received medical treatment, counselling and emotional support from the team of caregivers. Slowly, her mental health improved, and she began to recall fragments of her identity, including the name of her hometown, it said.

The ashram trustee, Kisan Choure, then turned to Google Search in an attempt to trace her roots. He managed to located the area where her family resided and contacted the Karwar City Police Station, informing them about her presence at the ashram, the release said.. **PTI**

Centre, state have share in metro; here to serve, not for credit: DKS

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday said that both state and central governments hold shares in the metro projects, as he asserted that serving the people was more important than "credit politics".

Shivakumar, who is also the Minister in-charge for Bengaluru development, inspected the soon-to-be-launched Yellow line of "Namma Metro" (Bengaluru Metro).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the Yellow Line on August 10.

"This is our metro. The CM and I had requested the PM to inaugurate the Yellow line and he has given the time now. This is not a project of the central government alone, the state too has 50 per cent share in the project. We are all serving the public." Shivakumar said in response to a question.

"The PM will inaugurate the Yellow line on August 10. The 19.15 km line with 16 stations was built at a cost of Rs 7,610 crore. A small programme will be organised at the auditorium in Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru. The PM, CM and the local legislators would travel in the inaugural trip of the train thereafter....We will submit an appeal to the PM on funds needed for the double decker project's land acquisition," he said.

Asked about the extension of the metro network and building more double-decker metro lines (road and metro corridor), Shivakumar said, "It would be nice if the MPs who are making a lot of noise got us some funds. The MPs don't speak a word on the funds, but are engaged in nit-picking. We have decided to build double decker metro lines for all metro lines in the future."

All the three Lok Sabha seats of Bengaluru are represented by BJP MPs.

The Commissionerate of Railway Safety gave the clearance for the Yellow line on July 31.

The Deputy CM hit out at Bengaluru South BJP Tejasvi Surya for alleging delay in opening the line for the service of the people.

"We can't rush through things like safety. Our MP is a young blood in a hurry and doesn't have any experience," he said.

Noting that three train sets have arrived for the Yellow line and the fourth set will come in August, Shivakumar said three trains will operate now at an interval of 25 minutes.

The frequency would be increased to 10 minutes once more train sets arrive. This is a crucial line to link the IT hubs to the city. **PTI**

7 accounts spread the rowdy mantra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

seven social media accounts with handles such as 'nagaraj_official', 'naga_anna', 'Wilson Garden Naga Boss', among others, were being used to circulate videos, stylised posts, and fan content that glorified Wilson Naga.

These pages featured visuals of the accused flashing deadly weapons, paired with dramatic background scores, catchy movie dialogues, and captions projecting him as an underworld "boss".

The FIR notes that the content was curated in a way that could appeal to the youth, potentially nudging them toward crime by romanticizing the image of a gangster.

Wilson Naga is no stranger to police records, with a long trail of cases registered against him across Bengaluru. Officials describe him as a habitual offender, involved in a series of serious crimes ranging from extortion and assault to organized gang activities. His name routinely figures in police records linked to violent and unlawful conduct.

Based on this digital trail, Siddapura Police sought permission from the 2nd ACMM Court and registered an FIR under Sections 351(1) (acts endangering public order) and 352 (promoting enmity or insult provoking breach of peace) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. Police officials confirmed to BM, "This wasn't a one-off post or fan page. There are multiple accounts, systematically managed and highly active. We've issued notices and summoned those associated with these pages. While they don't have criminal records yet, we're investigating the extent of their involvement."

Social media watch

The exposure of these accounts has once again raised concerns about how social media is becoming a stage for criminals to build cult-like personas. Each police station now typically deploys one or two officers specifically to monitor social media activity and it was this small digital surveillance team that flagged the content during regular checks.

Officers noted that glorifying criminal behaviour online, especially when aimed at influencing impressionable youth, can have long-term consequences on public order. The investigation is ongoing, and police have stated that action will be taken against those promoting, assisting, or amplifying criminal glorification through social media channels.

Meter is running... but not fast enough

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, the fare revision has sparked opposition from auto driver unions, who argue that the hike is insufficient given the rising cost of living. They have demanded a higher minimum fare of ₹40 for the first two kilometres and ₹20 for each additional kilometre.

Manjunath L, a member of Adarsh Auto Union, said, "The hike was decided without consulting with us. Today BMTC, KSRTC bus employees protested as they were not getting a hike in their salary for over three years. It is the same with auto drivers. Over the past four years, there was no hike in fares and over the years, auto prices and their spare parts have increased rapidly. Today to purchase an auto we require Rs 2,85,000. The current CNG price too is around 89 a kg as opposed to ₹50 a couple of years ago."

However, recently RTO issued a directive mandating all autorickshaws operating in Bengaluru to update their fare meters with the newly revised rates by October 31. Manjunath said, "The fares haven't been adjusted according to these rising operational costs. Besides that, today we won't get a 1bhk house on rent for Rs 8,000. There is no daily need that can be adjusted within Rs 100. Auto drivers have EMIs, family and children's education."

He stressed that compared to other cities, Bengaluru is larger, and travelling long distances at low fares is difficult. He added that they have addressed this to authorities. "We have got 90 days from the RTO to update the meter fares. If it is not hiked, we will continue to oppose it."

About the issue of tampering or hiding the fare meter, the auto driver said he didn't intend to hide the meter. "It's our duty to display a 'No Smoking' sticker, but if we place it near the seat, some passengers tend to scratch or peel it off. That's why I put it on the meter. Nowadays almost all the people use app based aggregators, where they get the fare online. So the meter is not in use at most times," he said.

Manjunath said if anyone faces such an issue, they can use maps to understand how many kilometers they have traveled and they know the fares. "They can calculate and pay an extra Rs 4 or 5 for service. Auto and cab drivers face the same kind of experiences where passengers come and behave however they want. So an advisory always helps keep passengers comfortable," he insisted.

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I MUSTAFA S/o Fazal Husain R/o No 307/21/328/8 6th Crs Noble Residency Begur Hobli Kudlu Bommanahalli Bangalore 560068 have changed my name to MUSTAFA F MOTORWALA for all purposes

I Shreya Satisha Narayan D/O, Manjula Raghavendra Rao R/o Bengaluru have changed my name to Shreya Narayan.

I, SHAHNAZ BEGUM, R/a.#18, Kuppuswamy Naidu Street, C.C.Road, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051. I, have Changed my name to SHANAZ BEGUM, Vide affidavit dated 04.08.2025 Sworn before Notary: Meer Hussain. Bangalore

I NOOR AHAMED KHAN S/o Noor Mohammed Khan R/o No.228, Telecom Layout, Bangalore-43 have changed my name to NOOR AHMED KHAN vide affidavit Dated 05.08.2025 sworn before Notary M.Rajendra,Bangalore-73

I, Shabber Ahmed Shafiulla S/o Shafiulla R/o No.513, Narasimhaiah Block, Near Dharmanna Garden,Chamundi Nagar,B'luru-560032 have changed my name Shabber Ahmed.

I Meenakumari Jain W/O, Shanthilal R/o No 4/192, 4th Cross, Woc Road, Kirloskar Cly 2nd St, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru - 560079 have changed my name to Meena Kumari.

I Shantilal Jain S/O, Mishri Lal R/o No 4/192, 4th Cross, Woc Road, Kirloskar Cly 2nd St, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru - 560079 have changed my name to Shanthilal.

I, Suman Bantwal Srinivas Rao W/o Bantwal Srinivas Rao R/O No 04, Koundinya, 4th Cross,5th Main, RPC Layout, Hampinagar, Bengaluru 560104 have changed my name to Suman Srinivas Rao.

I Vijaya Joannes D/O Iralappa Jonas R/O 2nd Cross Convent road kammanahalli bangalore, changed to Vijaya

I, Priyanka W/o Naveen Sheokand R/o # 118, 19 B Cross 12 Main, Sector 7, HSR Layout Bangalore - 560102, have changed my name to Priyanka Gumber

I, JAGADISH BASAVANTAPPA MUDENAVAR, Residing at 1368/33, 3rd Cross, 25th Main, Mrcr Ext, Prashanth Nagar, Bangalore – 560079, have changed my name to JAGADISH BASAVANNEPPA MUDENAVAR vide affidavit dated 05/07/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Yukti Kumar Khushu W/o.Rohit Khushu R/at A12, Woodsong Around the Mangoes, Gunjur Road, Kachamaranahalli, Bengaluru – 560087 have changed my name from Yukti to Yukti Kumar Khushu vide affidavit dated 02/08/2025 before notary Uday Kumar K, Blr.

I, Kavichand, S/o. Mohan Kanjarbhat, R/o. Flat #16, 1st Floor, Prabhavati Windsor Apt., 3rd Main, Vijaya Bank Colony, BTM 4th Stage, Blr-560076, have changed my name to KAVICHAND KANJARBHAT vide affidavit Dtd: 04/08/25 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

I, MAZHAR JAHAN IMTIAZ residing at #No.13, Cassuraiana Street Thimmaiah Road Cross Bharathi Nagar Bangalore-560001. I have changed my name to MAZHAR JAHAN BEGUM. Vide affidavit dated 05/08/2025 sworn before notary. Mir Zia Ulla Bengaluru

I, Chandra Jain w/o Moolchand Jain R/o 1322, Laxmi Kunj, 6th main, KN Extn, Yaswanthpur, Bengaluru 560022 have changed my name to Chandra Moolchand Jain (Chandra M Jain) Affidavit Dt.05/08/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

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Wednesday, August 6, 2025
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A TUNE THAT HAUNTS

Why do I feel so emotional when I listen to music from my teenage years?

Deep in your memory, your brain has created a playlist of music from your teenage years. Even though life has moved on, hearing that music now likely still brings up some really powerful emotions.

Why?

Well, as with anything to do with the brain and with emotions, it's hard to say for sure. But it's likely a bit to do with evolution, and a bit to do with some key neurological changes that occur in the teenage years.

Imagine the world of a prehistoric teenager

Changing hormones supercharge the limbic system, which is the emotional centre of the brain. Teens become emotionally sensitive and susceptible to intense mood swings.

At the same time, we start to become less reliant on our parents.

This increasing independence accelerates the need to forge close relationships with peers. We need to learn very quickly how to interpret the emotions of others, and develop strong memories of things that are safe or unsafe.

Imagine the world of a prehistoric teenager. No longer a child wholly dependent on their parents, the adolescent feels an instinctive drive to explore new territory and strike out on their own.

Away from their family's protection, survival now hinges on bonds with peers.

Going it alone is fraught with danger. Belonging to a group becomes a matter of life or death.

The teen finds a new pack, which communicates crucial information to each other using body language or non-linguistic verbalisations. Variations in the voice pitch or the speed of speech signal urgency or excitement.

Strong emotional reactions – the fear of danger, the thrill of a successful hunt, an intense connection with a potential mate – ensure memories about what to fear and what to seek are deeply carved into this teenage brain. The stronger the emotion, the deeper the memory.

The brains of modern teens aren't much different

In today's world, we seldom need to hunt for food or protect ourselves from predators trying to eat us. But modern teenage brains are still wired to react quickly and instinctively.

Modern teens will still strike out away from the safety of the family circle, learning to navigate the treacherous world of adolescent relationships.

As we all know – often from searingly painful personal experience – teenage brains are keenly attuned to non-linguistic social cues that signal acceptance or rejection by the pack.

We are evolutionarily wired to lay down deep memories in our brains of events that have had a strong emotional impact on us.

So what's this got to do with teen music tastes?

Music can convey linguistic and non-linguistic emotion.

Lyrics can tell a story that makes us feel heard and understood. They might signal we belong and are connected – with the artist, with other fans, and with broader human experiences such as love, lust or loneliness.

The melody and beat communicate emotion too.

In fact, some scholars believe the very reason music exists is related to the non-linguistic elements of speech that our prehistoric ancestors may have used to communicate before spoken language developed.

Our brains may respond to these signals in music the way our prehistoric ancestors responded to expressions of urgency, excitement or peace from other members of the tribe.

The way music communicates and evokes emotion is what makes it so important in life, particularly during the teenage years.

Teenagers may spend several hours per day listening to music, particularly when going through periods of psychological distress.

During this period – when emotional experiences and the learning that comes from them are so crucial to learning to survive – music becomes a powerful tool.

It can act as a simulator for practising emotional skills, a guide to navigating emotional ups and downs and a key to finding connection and belonging.

In other words, the music that we hear in our teenage years becomes closely intertwined with the strong emotions we experience at that time.

A time of many firsts

The music of your teens was likely the backdrop to your first kiss, the anthem you sang along to with friends, and a source of comfort when your heart was first broken.

Evolution has programmed you to feel every moment of your teenage years profoundly, so you can learn important lessons about how to survive, become independent and connect with others.

At the same time, music may be tapping into an ancient, pre-language part of our brains.

The music that accompanied high-stakes moments of your youth is forever linked to the powerful emotions you experienced then, and deeply embedded in the brain.

That is why, for the rest of our lives, those songs act as a kind of musical key to a neurological time capsule.

(By Sandra Garrido, Western Sydney University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Nap break boosts performance by converting short-term task data into long-term memory: Study

A new study explains a possible reason why sometimes taking a nap break helps people perform better when they resume a task -- during sleep, short-term information related to the task at hand is converted into long-term, stronger memory, researchers found.

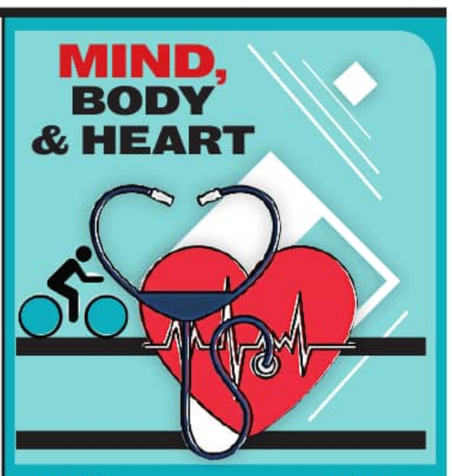
The team, led by researchers from Harvard Medical School, US, monitored brain activity of 25 participants as they were learning a typing sequence, followed by taking a nap.

During sleep, areas in the cortex -- brain's outermost layer that helps with higher-level functions such as memory -- that were active while the participants worked showed more rhythmic, repetitive patterns, indicating that information related to the task is being processed, the team found.

The results, published in the Journal of Neuroscience, also show that an increased number of brain waves in these areas of the brain's cortex were related with an improved performance of the participants following the nap.

"During sleep, cortical brain areas active during training had more rhythmic activity. Increased brain rhythms in these areas correlated with how much participants improved in the task after the nap," the authors wrote.

Further, the researchers found that performance during learning was linked with an increased activity during sleep in brain regions known to help with executing a movement -- possibly representing the memory of the task. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Processed food

To reduce weight
Following a healthy diet to lose weight? Make sure it's minimally processed, suggests a study, which showed that reducing processing could help to sustain a healthy weight.

Minimally processed diet
In a first, researchers from the University College London (UCL) nutritionally matched minimally processed (MPF) and ultra-processed (UPF) diets. The results, published in the journal Nature Medicine, showed that participants lost twice as much weight eating minimally processed foods compared to ultra-processed foods. "The primary outcome of the trial was to assess percentage changes in weight, and on both diets, we saw a significant reduction, but the effect was nearly double on the minimally processed diet," said Dr Samuel Dicken, first author of the study from the UCL Centre for Obesity Research. The trial split 55 adults into two groups. One group started with an eight-week diet of MPF, such as overnight oats or homemade spaghetti Bolognese.

Washout period
After a four-week 'washout' period during which participants went back to their normal diet, they switched to a diet of UPF, such as breakfast oat bars or a lasagne ready meal. The other group completed the diets in the opposite order. After eight weeks on each diet, both groups lost weight, likely as a result of the improved nutritional profile of what they were eating compared to their normal diet. However, this effect was higher (2.06% reduction) on the MPF diet compared to the UPF diet (1.05% reduction). The greater weight loss experienced on the MPF diet came from reductions in fat mass and total body water, with no change in muscle or fat-free mass, indicating a healthier body composition overall, explained the researchers.

—IANS

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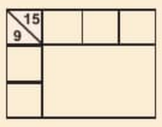
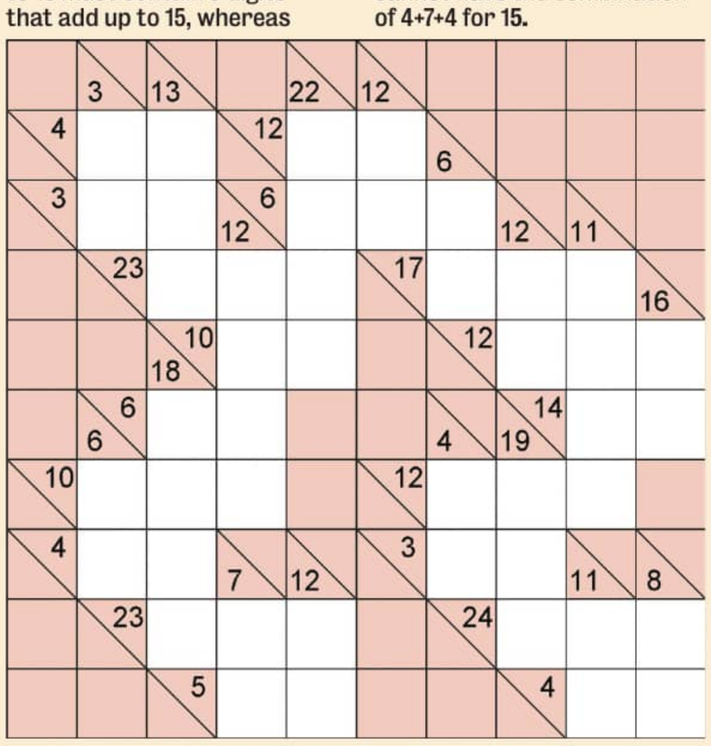
Kakuro

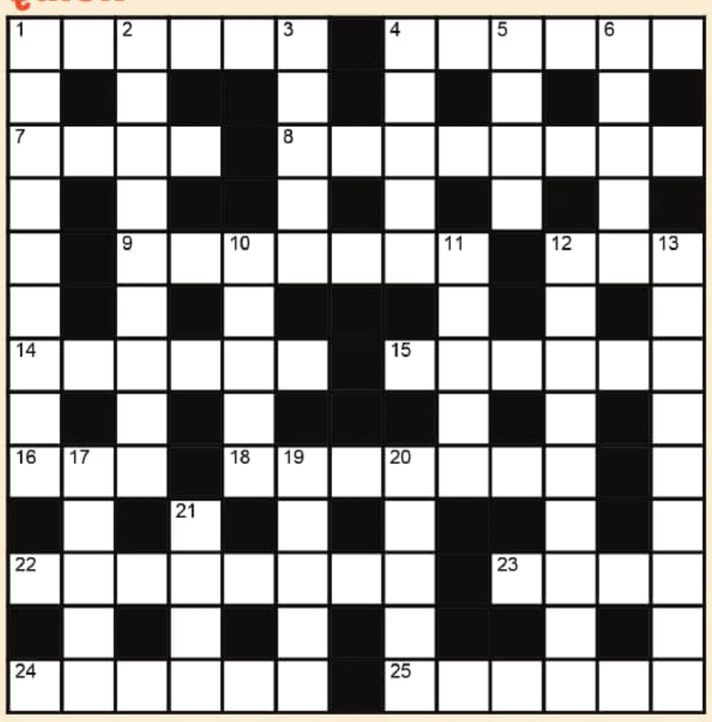
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Murderer (6)
4 One that unlawfully seizes an inheritance (6)
7 Called (4)
8 Cars, trains, etc (8)
9 The sunny state of U.S.A (7)
12 Tibetan animal (3)
14 Nabokov's nymphet (6)
15 A membrane that envelopes the lung (6)
16 Internet addresses (3)
18 Fashioning or shaping (7)
22 John, Jude, Paul, Judas and Peter? (8)
23 Of the ear (4)
24 In the land of Nod (6)
25 Longs for (6)

DOWN

1 Restaurant at the Taj Gateway hotel known for its seafood (9)
2 Ships' approaches to shores (9)
3 Large stream (5)
4 Felt sore (5)
5 Curve (4)
6 Musical drama (5)
10 Excluded from (3,2)
11 A type of tropical tree (5)
12 Child (9)
13 Backpacks (9)
17 Fathers (5)
19 Lowest deck of ship (5)
20 Mouldy, stale; antiquated (5)
21 Land set in sea (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS T

JOC SCZJ ATV JY SCXYNC TX-IGTRKJCQ ARJO T ZGSUCXJ RZ JY AFRJC T SYYL TSYGJ RJ.

Linemaro

Your earrings are the mirrors which reflect the moonlight into your eyes

Mindchow

Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle

Joke of the day

I made a killing on Wall Street a few years ago...I shot my broker

Loop

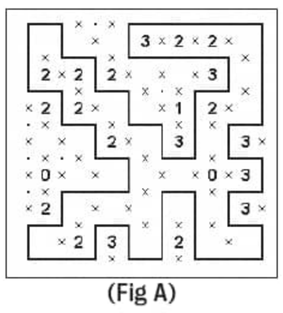
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

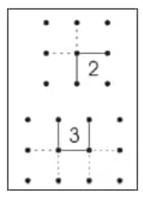
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

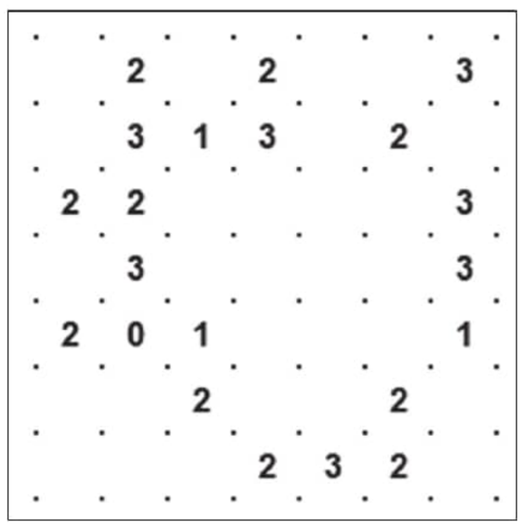
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



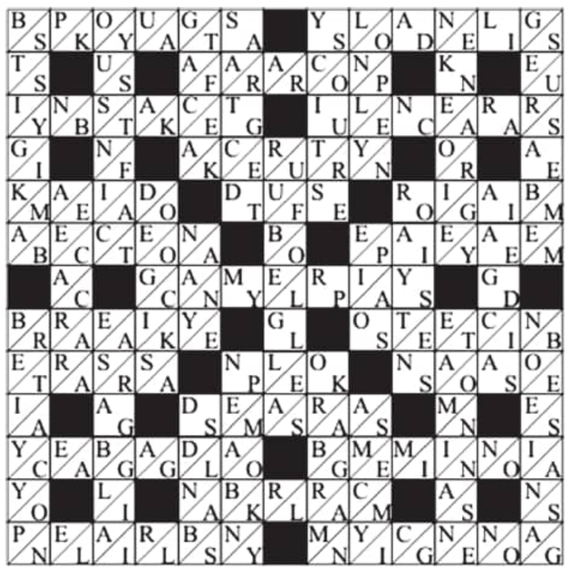
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



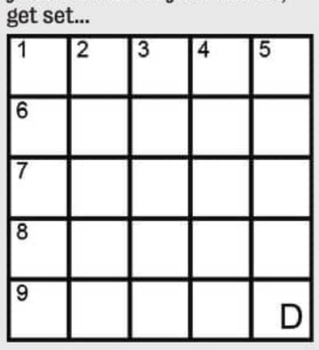
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

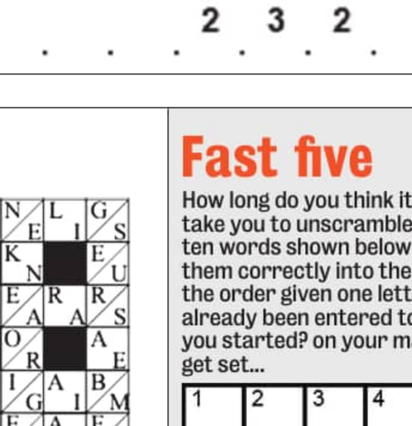
1 S guts; 6 U lent; 7 At Zoe; 8 Remit; 9 Pad hi

DOWN

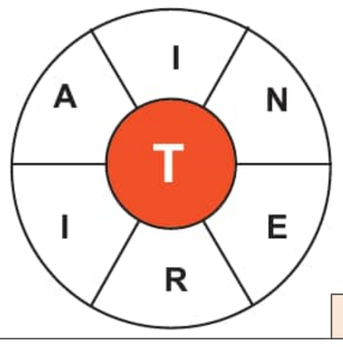
1 Guam a; 2 Nu zip; 3 Holts; 4 Titre; 5 Ed set

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			2		8			4
	4		3	6				
	2			5	9		7	
8	9						2	
	1	6				7	4	
	5						1	6
	7		9	3			6	
				1	2		3	
4			6		7			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 2

2 2 5 7

Medium

= 7

3 4 4 7

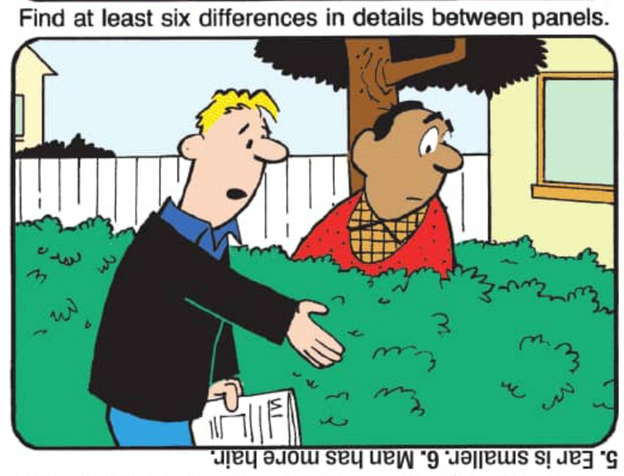
Hard

= 17

2 2 8 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



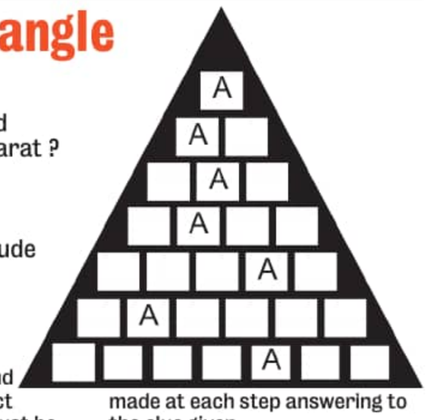
Differences: 1. Newspaper is longer. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Trim is added around window. 4. There are more leaves. 5. Ear is smaller. 6. Man has more hair.

Riddler

Fill in the blanks with four words, such that the first and the fourth are the same, while the second and the third are homonyms. A jailer _ _, and a jeweler _ _.

Alpha triangle

1 Blood gr.
2 A's alternative
3 ___Sarovar : bird sanctuary in Gujarat ?
4 Church part
5 Corruptible
6 Belly-buttons
7 Force into servitude



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

THE PERFESSOR MUST HAVE PROGRAMED 'AT ROCKET BOMB TO SEARCH FER US!
IT SURE ACTS LIKE IT KNOWS WHAT IT'S LOOKING FOR!
STAY THERE! I'LL LET IT SEE ME AN' I'LL DRAW IT ORF!
BE CAREFUL!
11-8
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popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Why do you always give me extra duties?
Because my high school swim team once lost a meet to yours.
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Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WE LOVE SCIENCE
OH, OH, YOUUU! YOU MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE!
WHOSE PHONE IS THAT? PLEASE TURN OFF THE SOUND AND PUT IT AWAY.
BUT IT'S MY COUSIN! I NEVER GET TO TALK TO HER!
CLASS ENDS IN FIVE MINUTES. IT CAN WAIT.
AUGH! I'LL TAKE THE HALL PASS AND TALK TO HER OUT THERE, THEN!
AFTER A STUDENT IN MR. BRIXTON'S BIOLOGY CLASS STORMED OUT, THINGS ESCALATED.
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Crankshaft

'MURDER BY BOOKEND' WOULD BE A WONDERFUL TITLE FOR MY NEXT BOOK!
OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT!
SO YOU'RE ALL DONE EXCEPT FOR THE BOOK PART!
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4-30

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, the Moon's blessings are with you. Your hard work may finally earn you a well-deserved position or recognition. Improved work efficiency will boost your confidence. You may also meet an influential person who provides valuable guidance for personal growth. Your parents' health will show signs of improvement.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Happiness and inner peace are likely to accompany you today. A visit to a religious or spiritual place may uplift your spirits. You may also consider donating to charity or a place of worship. Overseas travel opportunities related to work or education may arise. Singles might find a suitable life partner.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today may bring feelings of dissatisfaction and low energy, affecting your productivity. Delays in ongoing projects are possible. It's important to keep work and personal life separate to maintain domestic harmony. Avoid risky travel or impulsive actions. Love relationships may face strain, and job seekers might encounter setbacks.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Positive vibes surround you today, and circumstances feel more manageable. You may start planning a new business venture, possibly in partnership. Long-distance travel is on the cards. Trust and mutual understanding with your spouse will bring peace to your home life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You are likely to perform exceptionally well at work today. Strong rapport with your boss may lead to new responsibilities or even a promotion. Chronic health issues may improve, and you could receive incentives or rewards. Disputes with siblings may get resolved, and job seekers could find success.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Children's education may be your main focus today, and you might consider higher studies for them—or even for yourself to advance in your career. Couples may receive positive news regarding children. Singles may find their soulmate. Professionals in education, consulting, or banking will perform well.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
A sense of dissatisfaction may linger, and you may struggle to meet your responsibilities. Be cautious with financial decisions, as poor investments could lead to losses. Read documents thoroughly before signing anything. A parent's health may cause concern. If planning renovations at home, it's best to delay for now.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may stay occupied with work-related responsibilities today. Networking will expand, helping you secure significant business deals. Innovative ideas in partnership ventures may take shape. Investment opportunities in your business could lead to future growth. Emotional bonding with your spouse will strengthen.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today will likely be joyful, with quality time spent with family and friends. New income sources may emerge, improving your financial situation. You'll be better able to control unnecessary expenses and may invest in meaningful items that enhance your social standing.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Elders' blessings will guide you today. Your patience and focus will improve, helping you pursue your goals more effectively. You'll strike a healthy balance between expenses and savings, which will enhance your financial stability. Both business and domestic matters will be well-managed.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A feeling of dissatisfaction or laziness may slow you down, leading to delays in your projects. Lovebirds should avoid making any major relationship decisions today, especially related to marriage. Job seekers might face setbacks during interviews or applications.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Your inner strength and confidence will be high today. Small financial gains are likely, and positive interactions with your boss could lead to promotions or new responsibilities. Your public image and reputation will improve, and you may embark on work-related travel.

KIDZONE

Siddharth, Bengaluru

Saakshi S, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(30÷4)/10 =
7.5/10 =
0.75 or 3/4

RIDDLER
A jaller watches cells, and a jeweler sells watches.

QUOTE UNCODE
The best way to become acquainted with a subject is to write a book about it.

BULL'S EYE
ante, inert, train, INERTIA, irate, neat, rant, rate, rent, retain, tire, tier, tine, tinier,

FAST FIVE

A	P	H	I	D
M	I	T	R	E
A	Z	O	T	E
U	N	L	E	T
G	U	S	T	S

STRIKE OUT

S	P	O	U	T	S		Y	O	D	E	L	S		

QUICK

A	S	L	E	E	P		Y	E	A	R	N	S		

MENSA PUZZLE
1. Split the diagram into 3 columns, each 2 spaces wide, and read each double space as a 2 digit number.
Starting at the top of each column, add the 2 separate digits together, then add this to the whole 2 digit number, to give the result, written in the spaces underneath.

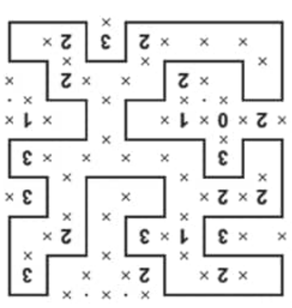
SUDOKU

4	3	2	6	8	7	5	9	1
6	8	9	5	1	2	4	3	7
5	7	1	9	3	4	2	6	8
2	5	4	7	9	3	8	1	6
3	1	6	8	2	5	7	4	9
8	9	7	1	4	6	3	2	5
1	2	8	4	5	9	6	7	3
7	4	5	3	6	1	9	8	2
9	6	3	2	7	8	1	5	4

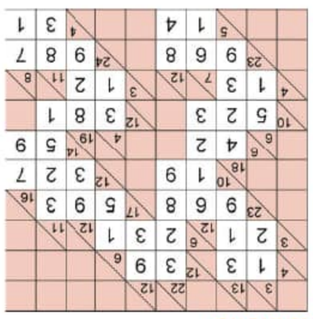
ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, An, Nal, Nave, Venal, Navels, Enslave.

GO FIGURE
2 – 2 + 7 – 5 = 2
Medium
4 – 4 x 3 + 7 = 7
Hard
2 + 8 – 2 + 9 = 17

LOOP



KAKURO

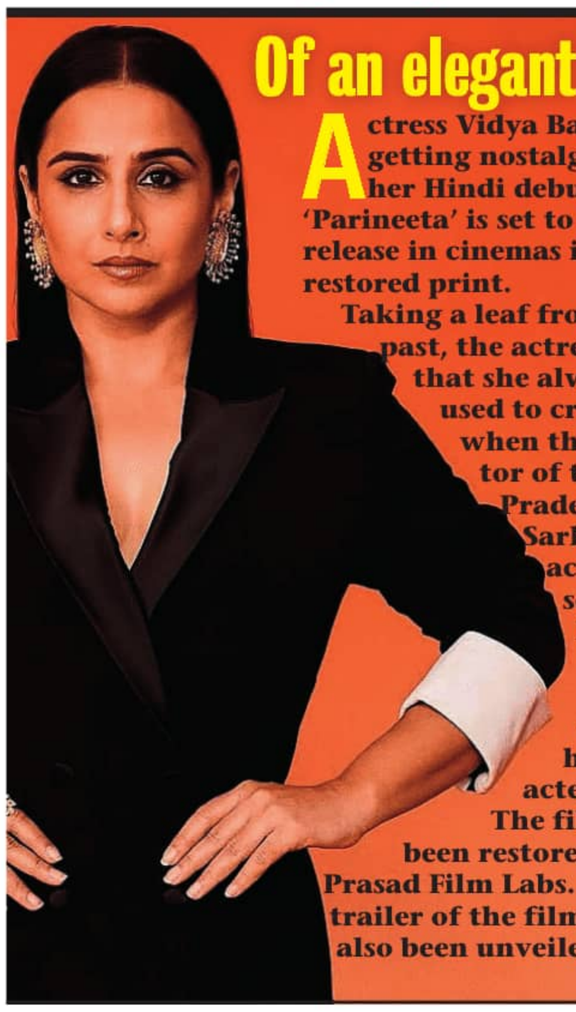


Volume No 18, Issue No 155 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru – 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # 'I still believe I'm far from my best'

Suniel Shetty, who is currently seen in the second season of "Hunter", said he still believes he is far from his best, and that's what keeps him going. For the veteran actor, "reinvention is survival."

Of an elegant era



Actress Vidya Balan is getting nostalgic as her Hindi debut film 'Parineeta' is set to re-release in cinemas in 8K restored print.

Taking a leaf from the past, the actress said that she always used to crack up when the director of the film Pradeep Sarkar acted out scenes to her particularly the walk of her character.

The film has been restored by Prasad Film Labs. A new trailer of the film has also been unveiled, celebrating the film's timeless appeal, soulful music, and the nostalgic elegance of an era.

Talking about the new trailer, Vidya Balan said, "I remember listening to 'Piyu Bole' for the first time; even then, I knew it was something special. There was a softness to it, a kind of innocence that I guess mirrored how I was feeling at the time, new, unsure, and quietly hopeful. Watching the trailer now, that melody brought back memories... the shooting of the scenes with (Dada) Pradeep Da screaming instructions from behind the monitor and how he'd act out moments and expect us to follow. His walk as a woman in my scenes always cracked me up, I'd be like, 'Dada, you don't need to teach me how to walk'..." **—IANS**

Admirable co-star

Actress Raashii Khanna, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film '120 Bahadur', has heaped praise on her co-actor, Farhan Akhtar. The actress said that more than the actor in Farhan, he admires the person he is.

The two attended the teaser launch of the film in Mumbai on Tuesday, and spoke with the media. The event turned out to be a celebration of mutual admiration, artistic synergy.

Sharing her experience of working with Farhan, the actress said, "So when we came together on this film, I have to thank Farhan sir first, because he broke the ice. I'm a little awkward, but sir was very nice. Like my parents have always taught me, if you want to know about a person, then you should see how he treats people around him. And I think he treats everyone with equal respect, no matter who they are. That's a quality that I have not seen in a lot of people".

She added, "That's why I cherish him more as a human being. Of course, I love him as an actor and a director, but I think I really, really like him as a person. He is very, very inspiring, very disciplined. And I think now everyone knows that if I say anything, I mean it..." **— IANS**

LOG OUT

Hrithik Roshan talks about positive impact of digital detox

Hrithik Roshan recently opened up about taking a step back from social media, a decision he says changed his relationship with time and presence.

While promoting 'War 2' in Colombo, the actor shared that he had deleted Instagram entirely and only reinstalled it to praise comedian Vir Das for his stand-up special Fool Volume.

What started as a short break became something more impactful. "Something in me switched," Hrithik said, reflecting on how unplugging helped him discover just how much time he actually had, and how valuable boredom and stillness can be. "I understood the perils of constantly being online," Hrithik said. "I became more aware of how much time I actually have, and what it feels like to just be bored, to simply exist. It was enlightening." Urging others to try a social media detox for at least a week, Hrithik believes it offers clarity that's hard to find when constantly plugged in. His words come at a time when digital overwhelm is becoming more common, even among celebrities. His short but impactful break offered a fresh lens on self-awareness, time, and balance.

Now back on Instagram, Hrithik is making waves again, this time with the first track from 'War 2', 'Aavan Jaavan'. He even shared a fun video of his mother, Pinkie Roshan, dancing to the hook step. "You know the song is a chartbuster when your mom spends a day learning the hook and looks a million bucks doing it!" he wrote lovingly. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, 'War 2' stars Hrithik alongside Jr NTR and Kiara Advani, and is set for an August 14, 2025, release. The song is already a hit with fans.

— ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Rajadrohi on Friday

Debutant director Samarth Raj is excited about the release of his movie Rajadrohi on Friday. The movie went on floors in 2012, and it received the certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification last year, more than 12 years after it went on floors.

The movie features Anant Nag, Lakshmi, Sharan, Abhijith, Orata Prashanth, Achyuth Kumar, Manasi, Sunitha Srinivas and others. Mahadevaiah bankrolled the movie under the Dhanush Combines banner.

It is said that the director and producer had to struggle a lot to coordinate with the actors who became busy.

"The reason for the delay is lack of coordination with the actors," said Samarth Raj.

The director thanked producer Mahadevaiah for taking the initiative to release the movie despite its inordinate delay and hurdles.

"Though the movie is a decade old; it connects to all categories of audiences.

I have tried to convey a message to society, especially parents and children, on the importance of love and bonding. The movie also highlights the ill-effects of parents comparing their children with other children," the director said.

He said that the producer has made arrangements to release the movie on the occasion of Vara Mahalakshmi.

Pooja for two movies

A pooja was conducted for two Kannada movies being bankrolled by businessman Vijay Tata under the Amrutha Cini Craft banner. Vinay Rajkumar is playing the lead in the movie directed by DSP Varma. The second movie is directed by Manasa. Vijay Tata had announced a plan to bankroll six movies at a function held recently.

According to sources, the script and other pre-production works of the two movies are in progress.

Vijay Tata said that he gives importance to hard work and dedication. "I am very happy with our team which is working as per the plan. We are planning to organise a muhurat function for these two movies shortly," said Tata.

He said that he decided to bankroll Kannada movies after due diligence. "Our objective is to provide a platform for newcomers to showcase their skills. We will release our movies at the right time. We leave no stone unturned to promote those movies bankrolled by us," he said.